



When John was 18 years old, his father passed away, leaving John with a widowed mother to care for. Later his mother married William M. Giles, and John went to make his home with his sister and brother-in-law, Joseph A. Murdock.

John was called on a mission to the Southern States in February, 1895, and spent three years laboring among the people there. Upon his return home he was an active member of the Sunday School Board and later worked in the Mutual and was a teacher in Sunday School.

Emma Jane Jeffs Fortie was born in Heber City, Wasatch County, May 14, 1875. She is the daughter of Mark Walker Jeffs and Mary Carlile Jeffs.

When three years old, her mother died, leaving her father with three small children, Eliza Ann, Mary Elizabeth, and herself. Her father later married Sarah Ann Chatwin, who was a very good mother to them and was loved by all. Emma worked in her father's store a number of years before she was married.

On January 11, 1899, she and John Alexander Fortie were married in the Salt Lake Temple. To this union were born 11 children, among them two sets of twins. Only five children are now living, three girls and two boys.

On January 12, John, with his mother and his wife, left by train for Thatcher, Arizona, to visit with his sister Pamalie Clegg. They stayed in Thatcher till the last of March of that year and upon their return trip home visited in San Francisco and the Golden Gate Park.

John worked in Emma's father's store on his return to Heber. Two years later Emma's father bought Bishop Dave Van Wagoner's store in Midway, and John and Emma moved to Midway to run the place. While

there, John was made a member of the Wasatch High Council, and also served as counselor to Bishop Jacob Probst. They lived in Midway seven years, and then the store was sold, and they returned to Heber. They were in Heber just a few weeks when John left for Duchesne to work in Al Murdock's store. His wife and children did not go there to make their home until the following year.

John was presiding Elder there until the ward was organized, and Al Murdock was made bishop and John chosen as his first counselor. Later, Victor Billings was bishop and John was a counselor to him.

While they lived in Duchesne they experienced the vicissitudes of pioneering. There were eight of them living in two small rooms. They had to carry their water from the river and in the summer it was always muddy, and in winter it was necessary to break the ice to obtain it. Sickness and death also visited their home, losing a set of twins while there. One of their children lay near death's door with typhoid fever for thirteen weeks. They also experienced all the childhood diseases with their family. During one of the many windstorms they lost the roof of their home.

After Emma's stepmother's death her father wanted them to return to Heber and work for him in his coal and lumber business, which later they owned and operated many years.

On the 29th day of October, 1916, John was ordained a Patriarch of Wasatch Stake and served in this position until his death.

Other positions he held were mayor of Heber City, county commissioner, and president of the school board.

Emma worked in the Stake Relief Society as secretary, a position she held nine years. She was a counselor to Maybell Moulton in the Second Ward Relief Society and later served as president.

Emma and her sister Eliza had the pleasure of going to Mesa to the dedication of the Mesa Temple, and also visited with their sisters living there.

On November 18, 1953, John was stricken with a stroke and was confined to his bed three and one-half years. He passed away June 2, 1957.

Emma is still living and is 83 years old.

She lives in her own home, does her own work, and is still enjoying good health.

JOHN ALEXANDER FORTIE AND EMMA JANE JEFFS FORTIE

John Alexander Fortie was born in Heber City, Wasatch County, September 30, 1872, son of Alexander Fortie and Rachel Howarth Fortie.

John's father was a carpenter and so John worked with him and learned the trade.

Firemen who have received their 25 year pins from the State Firemen's Association include Owen F. Buell, Earl H. Smith, Mont Giles, A. D. Buys, Forrest Dayton and Frank Hardy. At the 1961 state convention held in St. George, Mr. Hardy was presented a 50-year pin for service to the Utah association. Earl H. Smith is also serving his third five-year term as a trustee of the state group.

During recent years the department has moved into a new fire station and has added new trucks and many pieces of modern fire fighting equipment. Membership is kept at 20, all of whom are on call 24 hours a day and work strictly on a volunteer basis to protect property in the county against fires. Because of their work the valley's fire insurance rates have been very favorable.

Some firemen who have served in recent years include Verl Wright, William Turnbow, Neil Montgomery, Douglas Smith, Lynn McKnight, Lynn Bonner, Rolland Carlile, Bill Jasperson, Ray Wright, Hylton Burch, Don Smith, Jay Giles, Harvey Bronson, Glen Jensen, Ralph Stevens, Marvis Clyde, Neil Bethers, Art Mair, Paul Probst, LaRen Provost, Ray Farrell, Richard Jones, and Clyde Broadbent.

Secretaries of the department have included Forrest Dayton, Owen Buell, Douglas Smith and Clyde Montgomery.

A ladies auxiliary was organized in 1949 with Mary Hardy as president. She was also State Auxiliary president. Other presidents have been Thelma Wootton, La Von Burch and Dove McAfee who also have been state presidents. Lizzie Buell served for 10 years and Lois Wright, both have been auxiliary secretaries. May Smith was State Auxiliary secretary for two years.

The first fire alarm was the bell in the stake house tower, but in recent years a siren has been constructed with connections to enable the telephone operator to sound the alarm.

In addition to his work with the fire department, Mayor McMullin completed successful road and sidewalk projects, improved the city water system and strengthened the Heber Light and Power Plant. While many interests were pressing the city to sell the "white elephant power plant," Mayor McMullin put the issue to the people in a special election and won a majority vote of the people to continue city operation of the facility.

When Mayor McMullin was re-elected in 1926 he had as councilmen Albert Dickson, Henry Moulton, Sumner Hatch and Frederick Crook. Sylvan Rasband and Elmer Strong continued as recorder and treasurer, respectively.

Mayor McMullin directed one of the valley's large celebrations in August of 1927 when the city played host to the Sixth Annual State Encampment of Indian War Veterans. The encampment and concurrent homecoming celebration continued for four days and included two parades, band concerts, dances by Ute Indians, talent shows, ball games, rodeos, carnival treats and community dances. Large barbecue pits dug

on the court house grounds for the 1924 celebration were used again to cook several beef and lambs and provide free sandwiches to everyone. J. W. Giles and Wesley Duke were in charge of the barbecue.

H. Clay Cummings, one of Heber's more popular mayors, was elected to office in 1928, and was the first mayor to be elected for four consecutive terms. Councilmen who were elected with him in the 1928 election included Sumner Hatch, Ralph F. Nilsson, Frederick Crook and Daniel McMillan. Velma Crook Buys was recorder and Elmer Strong continued as treasurer.

A successful cattleman, Mayor Cummings was also prominent in Church leadership as well as his civic duties. He was president of the Wasatch Stake for nearly 22 years, part of which time he also served as the mayor and later as a county commissioner.

His efforts as mayor included organization of the electric utility as the Heber Light and Power Company, paving main street, building the city's "White Way," and strengthening the fire department through the purchase of a new truck.

City officials who served with Mayor Cummings in his various terms included the following:

1930-31; J. W. Giles, Harold Stevens, Labon Hylton and Sylvan Smith, councilmen; Velma Buys, recorder and Clarence Olson, treasurer.

1932-33: Harold Stevens, Joseph Olpin, W. D. Ely, Daniel McMillan, councilmen; Clarence Olson, recorder; Effie Murdock, treasurer; Ernest Hicken, marshal and George Stanley, city attorney.

1934-35: Ralph Giles, Douglas Giles, Andrew Lindsay, Frank Epperson, councilmen; Clarence Olson, recorder; Thomas Tadd, marshal from daylight until 4 p.m.; Leonard Giles, marshal from 4 p.m. to midnight and Delbert Watson, marshal from midnight until daylight. (Marshal Tadd received \$87.50 per month, while Messers. Giles and Watson received \$55 per month.)

Another prominent cattleman became Heber's Mayor in the 1935 election when Mayor Cummings decided to run for the county commission. Livingston Clegg Montgomery, known as "L.C." won the election and took office in January of 1936.

Councilmen elected with Mayor Montgomery were Harold Stevens, Nephi Moulton, Douglas Giles, Andrew A. Lindsay and Owen F. Buell. Effie Murdock was treasurer with Leonard Giles as city marshal. City sexton and poundkeeper was William H. Bond.

Mayor Montgomery, an active Democrat, took office in the depression recovery days of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's administration, and implemented many work programs in Heber. Many city sidewalks were paved under the Works Progress Administration, with the government paying for labor and property owners paying for materials. Ground to build a sewer was purchased and the city waterworks was improved with Public Works Administration funds.

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